

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

DHA-05 TRSE-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /107 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1458

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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DEPARTMENT FOR MAYNES (IO), DERIAN (D/HA), ALSO US HR
REP MEZVINSKY, USUN FOR LOWENSTEIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE OF MISSION HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER
AT THIRD COMMITTEE SESSION OF UNGA

REF: (A) USUN 3313, (B) USUN 3337

1. THE 1978 SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC)
HERE PROMISES TO BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST AND SENSITIVITY
IN VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS
AN IN THE AFTERMATH OF BELGRADE. ACCORDINGLY, I AM
GREATLY CONCERNED THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THIS
SESSION BE AS EFFECTIVE AND WELL-COORDINATED AS POSSIBLE.
IN THIS REGARE, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ROLE OF
THE MISSION'S HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER (HRO) AT THE LAST TWO
SESSIONS OF THE HRC WAS LESS EFFECTIVE THAN IT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN, DRAWING CRITICAL COMMENTS TO IO OF AT
LEAST ONE OF MY PREDECESSORS, BECAUSE THE HRO WAS
BROUGHT INTO THE PICTURE ONLY WITH THE ARRIVAL OF OTHER
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MEMBERS OF OUR DELEGATION HERE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE
OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE.

2. IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS UNFORTUNATE SITUATION AT THIS
FORTHCOMING SESSION, IN VIEW OF THE NEW COMPOSITION OF
OUR DELEGATION, AND TO PROVIDE OPTIMUM LIAISON AND
COORDINATION BETWEEN THIS MISSION, THE DELEGATION, THE

DEPARTMENT AND USUN, I PROPOSE THAT THE MISSION'S HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER, GLORIA GASTON-SHAPIRO, ATTEND PERTINENT SESSIONS OF THE THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE 31ST UNGA IN ORDER TO COVER HUMAN RIGHTS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. FOLLOWING THE DEBATES OF THESE MEETINGS WILL PERMIT HER BOTH TO ATTAIN GREATER FAMILIARITY WITH THE PERSONALITIES AND ISSUES INVOLVED IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEBRUARY HRC, AND TO PROVIDE THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THESE DEBATES THE KNOWLEDGE AND CONTINUITY SHE HAS GAINED IN WORKING WITH HRD OFFICIALS AND FOREIGN DELEGATIONS HERE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.

3. MS. GASTON'S ATTENDANCE AT ALL THIRD COMMITTEE SESSIONS SEEMS NEITHER NECESSARY NOR DESIRED. AN EXAMINATION OF THE AGENDA AND CALENDAR SET FORTH IN REFTELS INDICATES THAT HER PRESENCE AT THESE SESSIONS FROM APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER 10 FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS WOULD SERVE THE DESIRED PURPOSE.

4. THE SUPPORT OF ADDRESSESS FOR THIS PROPOSAL IS REQUESTED. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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